

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listings of Claims:

1-19 (CANCELLED):

20 (ORIGINAL): An image pick-up server, which has image sensing means, for performing a distribution service which distributes video information obtained by said image sensing means to a client via a network, comprising:

storage means for setting a plurality of shootable areas, which are the object of the distribution service, within a range in which shooting direction of said image sensing means can be changed, and storing information relating to the plurality of shootable areas set and information which specifies a plurality of virtual image sensing means for respective ones of the shootable areas; and

control means for reading out, from said storage means, information corresponding to virtual image sensing means selectively designated by the client, setting a range in which it is possible to change the shooting direction of said image sensing means based upon the information relating to the shootable area indicated by the information that has been read out, and controlling said image sensing means within the range in which it is possible to change the shooting direction.

21 (ORIGINAL): The server according to claim 20, wherein said storage means stores, with respect to said plurality of shootable areas, identification numbers of respective ones of said

virtual image sensing means, and information indicating ranges of pan and tilt angles of said image sensing means.

22 (ORIGINAL): The server according to claim 21, wherein said storage means stores information indicating ranges over which zoom magnification can be changed with respect to said plurality of shootable areas.

23 (ORIGINAL): The server according to claim 20, wherein said control means includes means for inhibiting distribution of video information, which has been obtained by said image sensing means, during changing of the shooting direction of said image sensing means in order to change over the virtual image sensing means.

24 (ORIGINAL): The server according to claim 20, wherein information relating to the shootable areas is stored in the server.

25 (ORIGINAL): A client connected to the image pick-up server set forth in claim 20, comprising:

selection notification means for selecting one of said virtual image sensing means that have been stored in said storage means and notifying said image pick-up server of the information specifying the selected virtual image sensing means;

display means for displaying an image distributed by said image pick-up server;

and

shooting-direction change designation means for changing the shooting direction of the virtual image sensing means selected by said selection notification means and instructing said server of result of the change.

26 (ORIGINAL): The client according to claim 25, wherein the information relating to the shootable areas is downloaded from said image pick-up server.

27 (ORIGINAL): An image pick-up system comprising an image pick-up server, which has image sensing means, for performing a distribution service which distributes video information obtained by the image sensing means to a client via a network, and a client for receiving the video information from said image pick-up server, wherein said image pick-up server includes:

storage means for setting a plurality of shootable areas, which are the object of the distribution service, within a range in which shooting direction of said image sensing means can be changed, and storing information relating to the plurality of shootable areas set and information which specifies a plurality of virtual image sensing means for respective ones of the shootable areas; and

control means for reading out, from said storage means, information corresponding to virtual image sensing means selectively designated by the client, setting a range in which it is possible to change the shooting direction of said image sensing means based upon the information relating to the shootable area indicated by the information that has been read out, and controlling said image sensing means within the range in which it is possible to change the shooting direction; and said client includes:

selection notification means for selecting one of said virtual image sensing means that have been stored in said storage means and notifying said image pick-up server of the information specifying the selected virtual image sensing means;

display means for displaying an image distributed by said image pick-up server;
and

shooting-direction change designation means for changing the shooting direction of the virtual image sensing means selected by said selection notification means and instructing said server of result of the change.

28 (ORIGINAL): A method of controlling an image pick-up server, which has image sensing means, for performing a distribution service which distributes video information obtained by the image sensing means to a client via a network, said method comprising:

a storage step of setting a plurality of shootable areas, which are the object of the distribution service, within a range in which shooting direction of said image sensing means can be changed, and storing, in prescribed storage means, information relating to the plurality of shootable areas set and information which specifies a plurality of virtual image sensing means for respective ones of the shootable areas; and

a control step of reading out, from said storage means, information corresponding to virtual image sensing means selectively designated by the client, setting a range in which it is possible to change the shooting direction of said image sensing means based upon the information relating to the shootable area indicated by the information that has been read out, and controlling said image sensing means within the range in which it is possible to change the shooting direction.

29 (ORIGINAL): A storage medium storing program code which, by being read in and executed by a computer, functions as an image pick-up server, which has image sensing means, for performing a distribution service which distributes video information obtained by the image sensing means to a client via a network, said storage medium storing program code which functions as:

storage means for setting a plurality of shootable areas, which are the object of the distribution service, within a range in which shooting direction of said image sensing means can be changed, and storing information relating to the plurality of shootable areas set and information which specifies a plurality of virtual image sensing means for respective ones of the shootable areas; and

control means for reading out, from said storage means, information corresponding to virtual image sensing means selectively designated by the client, setting a range in which it is possible to change the shooting direction of said image sensing means based upon the information relating to the shootable area indicated by the information that has been read out, and controlling said image sensing means within the range in which it is possible to change the shooting direction.

30 (NEW): An image pick-up server for distributing image information obtained by an image sensing apparatus to a client via a network, comprising:

storage device for storing a plurality of control ranges, which are the objects of the distribution, within a range in which sensing direction of the image sensing apparatus can be changed, and storing identification information which specifies a plurality of virtual cameras for respective ones of the control ranges: and

control device for controlling said image sensing apparatus within the control range corresponding to the Identification information of the virtual camera selected by the client.

31 (NEW): The image pick-up server according to claim 30, wherein each of control ranges is defined by variable range of at least one of pan, tilt, and zoom of said image sensing apparatus.

32 (NEW): The image pick-up server according to claim 30, wherein said control device controls said image sensing, apparatus in accordance with the control command from the client, and when the control command exceeds the control range, said control device resets the control command to be within the control range.

33 (NEW): The image pick-up server according to claim 30, further comprising changing device for changing the virtual camera in accordance with the selection information received from the client.

34 (NEW): The image pick-up server according to claim 33, wherein distribution of image information to the client is inhibited during changing the virtual camera by said changing device.

35 (NEW): An image pick-up server for distributing image information obtained by an image sensing apparatus to a client via a network, comprising:

storage device for storing a plurality of control ranges, which are the objects of the distribution, within a range in which sensing direction of the image sensing apparatus can be changed, and storing identification information which specifies a plurality of virtual cameras for respective ones of the control ranges; and

distributing device for distributing the image information within the control range corresponding to the identification information of the virtual camera selected by the client.

36 (NEW): The image pick-up server according to claim 35, wherein each of control range is defined by variable range of at least one of pan, tilt, and zoom of said Image sensing apparatus.

37 (NEW): The Image pick-up server according to claim 35, wherein said distributing device distributes the image information in accordance with the control command from the client, and when the control command exceeds the control range, said distributing device reset the control command to be within the control range.

38 (NEW): The image pick-up server according to claim 35, further comprising changing device for changing the virtual camera in accordance with the selection Information received from the client.

39 (NEW): The Image pick-up server according to claim 38, wherein said distributing device does not distribute image information to the client during changing the virtual camera by said changing device.

40 (NEW): A method of controlling an image pick-up server for distributing image information obtained by an image sensing apparatus to a client via a network, said method comprising:

a storage step of storing a plurality of control ranges, which are the objects of the distribution, within a range in which sensing direction of the image sensing apparatus can be

changed, and storing Identification information which specifies a plurality of virtual cameras for respective ones of the control ranges; and

a control step of controlling said image sensing apparatus within the control range corresponding to the identification information of the virtual camera selected by the client.

41 (NEW): A method of distributing image information obtained by image sensing apparatus from an image pick-up server to a client via a network, said method comprising:

a storing step of storing a plurality of control ranges, which are the objects of the distribution, within a range in which sensing direction of the image sensing apparatus can be changed, and storing identification information which specifies a plurality of virtual cameras for respective ones of the control ranges; and

a distributing step of distributing the image information within the control range corresponding to the identification information of the virtual camera selected by the client.

42 (NEW): A storage medium storing program code which, by being read in and executed by a computer, functions as an image pick-up server for distributing image information obtained by an image sensing apparatus to a client via a network, said storage medium storing program code which functions as:

a storage step of storing a plurality of control ranges, which are the objects of the distribution, within a range in which sensing direction of the image sensing apparatus can be changed, and storing identification information which specifies a plurality of virtual cameras for respective ones of the control ranges; and

a control step of controlling said image sensing apparatus within the control range corresponding to the identification information of the virtual camera selected by the client.

43 (NEW): A storage medium storing program code which, by being read in and executed by a computer, functions as an image pick-up server for distributing Image Information obtained by Image sensing apparatus to a client via a network, said storage medium storing program code which functions as:

a storing step of storing a plurality of control ranges, which are the objects of the distribution, within a range in which sensing direction of the image sensing apparatus can be changed, and storing identification information which specifies a plurality of virtual cameras for respective ones of the control ranges; and

a distributing step of distributing the image information within the control range corresponding to the identification information of the virtual camera selected by the client.